

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 AID-20 SCSE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 EB-11 SSO-00 INRE-00 /064 R

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O 281525Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 040064

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN VE

SUBJECT: SEARCH AND RESCUE - REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN
LOCATING MISSING VESSEL

REF: (A) CARACAS 1694, (B) CARACAS 1701

1. CONFIRMING OUR TELECONS WITH EMBASSYCOMSOLANT
(COMMANDER SOUTH ATLANTIC FLEET) PARTICIPATED IN LUCKLESS
5-DAY SEARCH FOR VESSEL FEBRUARY 18 THRU 22. DOD UNDER-
STANDS THAT CRAFT WAS STOCKED WITH ONLY FOUR-DAY SUPPLY OF
FOOD AND WATER. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, AND IN ABSENCE OF
FURTHER EVIDENCE OF VESSEL, DOD TENDS TO BELIEVE CONTINUED
PARTICIPATION IN RESCUE OPERATIONS HAS LITTLE PROSPECT OF
SUCCESS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL (B) HOWEVER,DOD EXPRESSES
WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TOKEN PARTICIPATION. ACCORDING TO
PRELIMINARY COMPUTER RUN, BASED ON SUCH FACTORS AS WIND,
TIDES AND 11-DAY LAPSED-TIME PERIOD, SEARCH AREA WOULD NOW
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COMPRISE SOME 49,000 SQUARE MILES REQUIRING MINIMUM

165 TO 550 FLYING HOURS. EFFORT THIS MAGNITUDE BEYOND
PRESENT CAPABILITIES USAFSO.

3. IN ORDER RESPOND HUMANITARIAN FACTOR INVOLVED IN
EMBASSY REQUEST, DOD WOULD CONSIDER 2-3 DAY AIR SEARCH IN
AREA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED - THAT EMBASSY DETERMINE MINIMUM
SEARCH AREA AND OBTAIN ASSURANCES FROM GOV THAT IT WILL
COVER ALL COSTS OF SEARCH EFFORT. INFO COPIES OF
EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO RCC PANAMA,
USAFSO, USCINCSO, SECDEF, JCS, CSAF/XOX, ALBROOK CZ/DO,
MAC SCOTT AFB, ILL/DO. CASEY

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